

**Public Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Assessment
Proposed Post-2200 (10:00 P.M.) High Explosive Ordnance
Expenditure and Supersonic Flights
Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range
Imperial and Riverside Counties, California**

PROPOSED ACTION: The U.S. Marine Corps has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts from eliminating schedule restrictions on the delivery of high explosive (HE) ordnance at existing targets within the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR) in Imperial and Riverside Counties, California, and authorizing supersonic flight in the existing Restricted Airspace overlying the CMAGR.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to support the achievement of standardized, advanced tactical training and certification of unit instructor qualifications that support Marine Aviation Training and Readiness. The Proposed Action is needed because as currently restricted, HE ordnance training requirements cannot be satisfied, which adversely impacts training ability and overall operational readiness. The second purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide aviators the ability to train to the full capability of the aircraft, and to the tactics, techniques, and procedures that are part of Marine Aviation Training and Readiness. The supersonic flight area is needed to facilitate the full exploitation of aircraft sensor suites. There would be no increase in the number of aircraft sorties or the quantity or magnitude of HE ordnance usage. Also, the Proposed Action would not change existing target configuration, facilities, or airspace.

HOW TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EA: Hardcopies of the Draft EA are available for review and comment at the Holtville City Library, El Centro Public Library, and Brawley Public Library. In addition, the Draft EA is available for electronic viewing at the following website: <https://www.mcasyma.marines.mil/Staff-and-Agencies/Range-Natural-and-Cultural-Resources/>. If you wish to comment on the Draft EA, please submit your written comments to the following address no later than July 9, 2018: Mr. Jesse Martinez, Senior NEPA Project Manager, NAVFAC SW, 1220 Pacific Hwy, Building 1, San Diego CA 92132, or, via email to jesse.w.martinez1@navy.mil.